

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, Jan. 12, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

Christmas tree removal schedule

The only scheduled pickup for Christmas trees is Monday, Jan. 10.

PWOC holds Spring Kickoff

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is having its Spring Kickoff 9 to 11:30 a.m., Jan. 6, in the Social Hall of the main Chapel.

Childcare is available.

The theme is "Delight in the Lord." The new studies will be: "That the World May Know"-Christ's Death-Resurrection, "A Woman's Walk with God," "Freedom for Mothers" and "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money."

For more information, call 410-278-4333.

Youth Services holds art exhibit at Top of the Bay

Aberdeen Youth Services' Fine Arts Exhibit will be on display 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 6 and 7 Jan. The Recognition Program will be held 6 to 8 p.m., Jan. 7

Sixty-five youths submitted artwork for the exhibition.

The Fine Arts Exhibit's two main purposes are to stimulate interest in art, and give children an opportunity to express themselves creatively while improving their self-esteem.

In addition to the young artists and their families attending, APG's Army Community Service will be on hand with an information table regarding two of their family-based programs, Family Advocacy Program and the Exceptional Family Member Program.

For more information, call Norma Warwick, 410-278-9059.

Chapel collecting offering for tsunami relief

The Chapel congregations of Aberdeen Proving Ground will be collecting a designated offering to be given to relief agencies helping with the tsunami efforts.

Donations may be made at the Catholic services 8:45 a.m. at the Aberdeen Area Chapel, and 11 a.m. at the Edgewood Area

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Commentary--Tsunami not God's handiwork
APG collects for tsunami victims
Selecting passwords

2004 IN A FLASH



A pictorial look at 2004

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The APG News presents a pictorial look back at the year that was 2004.

Although touched by national news stories like the presidential election, the Florida hurricanes, the War in Iraq, and the devastating tsunami, the Aberdeen Proving Ground community continues its quest to improve the living, working and playing environment for its residents, service members, civilian workers, family members, retirees and guests.

The year brought rapid changes to warrior training and improvements to warfighter equipment and capabilities, which remain a top priority for the proving ground's numerous training, research and testing organizations. The installation made strides in reaffirming its relationships with Harford County, the City of Aberdeen, and its veteran community.

In looking back, the year's events were considered, focusing on the installation's most significant achievements, changes of commands, military and family activities, troop deployments, entertainment and sporting events.

Hopefully, readers will grasp an appreciation of the past and look forward to an even brighter future in 2005. See page 3.

Photo by RON CARTY

A Soldier wearing a protective mask and a fully encapsulated uniform fires an M-4 machine gun with cross contact optic site attachment at Aberdeen Proving Ground's U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center M-Range during an encapsulation study conducted by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory in February 2004.

APG readying for NSPS

The Department of Defense has announced the activities selected to participate in the initial implementation of the National Security Personnel System, or NSPS.

The Human Resources Management System, along with Labor Relations and Appeals systems, are the three elements that make up NSPS. The Civilian Human Resources Agency was selected as one of the initial conversion groups. Specifically, all CONUS based, General Schedule CHRA employees paid from appropriated funds will be among the first to convert to the NSPS; CHRA employees who are Nonappropriated Fund or Wage Grade will be converted later.

CHRA employees located at Aberdeen Proving Ground include the CHRA director and staff, the Northeast Regional director and staff, the NE Civilian Personnel Operations Center, NECPOC, and the APG Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, CPAC.

The CHRA employees will be in a unique role of both being involved in NSPS as covered employees and executing the program for others covered by NSPS.

Michael L. Vajda, director, CHRA has characterized the change to NSPS as "nothing short of monumental."

"Most of us have never experienced such a

sweeping change in employment systems," Vajda said.

Other APG employees to be included in Spiral 1.2 and 1.3 include employees of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and the Medical Command.

DOD is working with the Office of Personnel Management on finalizing the NSPS enabling regulations, which will be published in the Federal Register for public comment.

Over the coming months the DOD NSPS Program Executive Office, as well as the Army's NSPS Program Executive Office will be sponsoring a variety of informational forums and activities. These sessions are designed to build the workforce comfort level about NSPS and assist DOD/Army in making a successful transition to NSPS.

The authority to create NSPS is contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004, which was signed by President Bush in November 2003.

The NSPS Web site at www.cpmis.osd.mil/nsps offers up-to-date information on NSPS.

(Editor's note: See Army News Service article below for more information on other Army locations converting to NSPS.)

Army employees among first to test NSPS

Army News Service

Army employees at several arsenals and depots will be among the first to test a new DoD civilian personnel system.

The National Security Personnel System, will be

implemented in groupings called "spirals," Navy Secretary Gordon England announced Dec. 15. Spiral One will include about 300,000 general-schedule employees of all military services and some DoD agencies.

Spiral One will be rolled out in three phases over an 18-month period beginning as early as July 2005, England said.

In the first phase, Spiral 1.1, more than 1,000 Army

See NSPS, page 2

CMA reinforces position as world leader in eliminating chemical weapons

CMA

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency announced Dec. 28 that it has safely destroyed 33.34 percent of the nation's stored chemical agent.

CMA continues working toward fulfilling its mission to enhance national security while meeting the destruction provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty signed by the United States in 1997.

Workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, have destroyed more than 70 per-

cent of the mustard agent stockpile that has been stored for over 60 years at the installation. The facility remains on track to complete destruction of this stockpile this winter.

"The dedicated workers at all of our disposal facilities are making great strides to eliminate these weapons and make our nation safer in the process," said Michael A. Parker, CMA director. "We remain focused on our mission and will use our expertise, experience and resolve to continue this work until the last of this material is safely

See CMA, page 6



Photo courtesy of EDGEWOOD CHEMICAL ACTIVITY
A container is transported from the Edgewood Chemical Activity's Chemical Agent Storage Yard to the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for draining and neutralization.

Stateside housing allowances to rise

Military.com

Monthly housing allowances for 910,000 service members living off base in the United States climbed by an average of 8 percent effective Jan. 1, Defense Department officials said.

The rise in individual rates, however, will vary significantly, from no change for some grades in some areas to as much as 20 to 30 percent for military renters in high-cost areas such as Hawaii.

Revised BAH rates have no direct impact on service members living off base overseas.

AAFES begins 'dollar store' concept

Capt. Diane Weed
AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is rolling out its new concept for a 'dollar store' inside the exchange. The Dollar Day\$ Program will soon be in all exchanges offering high-quality goods that provide a great value to customers when priced at only one dollar. "The program will be fully implemented in stores in January," said Monte McCarter, an AAFES merchandise manager. "This program is designed to offer customers great merchandise at great prices."

The types of merchandise planned for the Dollar Day\$ Store include: hardware, plastics, candy, snacks, stationary, party goods, kitchen accessories, health and beauty items. Stock assortment will also be adjusted for specific seasons like Easter, summer, and back-to-school.

The program was tested at 65 select locations and was extremely successful, McCarter said. AAFES received positive responses from both the customers and the stores.

"The Dollar Store concept is one of the fastest growing categories in the retail market," said Larry McMahon, an AAFES buyer supervisor. "This program will help AAFES remain competitive and will give our customers more options."

They get an Overseas Housing Allowance, which is adjusted in the spring and fall each year to reflect changes in out-of-pocket costs for stateside peers and changes in the dollar's value relative to local currency.

The 2005 Basic Allowance for Housing rates not only will keep pace with an average 4.4 percent rise in rental costs nationwide over last year but also are high enough to close a remaining 3.5 percent gap

between 2004 BAH and median rental expenses nationwide.

BAH recipients will enjoy a fifth and final "above-inflation" annual adjustment that since the year 2000 has eliminated a 22 percent disparity between stateside allowances and rental costs reported in housing surveys.

For more information, see http://www.military.com/NewContent/0,13190,SS_122004_BAH,00.html.

Guard triples enlistment bonuses

Military.com

In response to continued recruiting difficulties, the National Guard is tripling the cash bonuses it will pay for some new recruits and for current Guard Soldiers willing to re-enlist, the Guard's top general said. Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, unveiled new initiatives intended to boost the Army National Guard's lagging personnel rolls. Blum briefed reporters at the Pentagon.

- Among the initiatives:
- A \$15,000 bonus for new Guard recruits who have served in the military, triple the previous figure.
 - A \$15,000 bonus for Guard soldiers who will re-enlist for six years, also three times the previous amount.

- A \$10,000 bonus for recruits who have never served in the military, up from \$6,000 and now the largest bonus the Guard has offered such recruits.

The Guard and Army Reserve are struggling with recruiting problems related to the Pentagon's reliance on part-time military personnel to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

About 40 percent of the 148,000 U.S. troops in Iraq are Guard and reserve Soldiers.

In peacetime, Guard and reserve troops usually train one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. But thousands are now serving full-time combat tours of a year or more.

Military W-2s make it easier to determine tax-credit eligibility

Military.com

The 2004 W-2 forms for military members will now report pay earned while serving in combat zone tax-exclusion areas. This information will allow members to better determine their eligibility for two credits to their federal income tax payments, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, officials said.

The combat zone pay information will be listed separately in Block 14 of the member's W-2 form and will not be included with taxable wage information.

EITC and CTC qualifications are based on gross income, which includes pay earned while in a tax-exclusion area.

The addition of this information on 2004 W-2s will help determine whether a member meets the IRS requirements for EITC and CTC and which method of computing taxes is most advantageous to each member's individual situation.

The 2004 W-2s will be available in mid-to-late January, and service members can access their W-2s on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's on-line "myPay" system.

Officials recommend service members contact their unit tax advisors for more information on the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, or other tax issues.

Looking for a job??

Sue Cassidy
CPAC

Job seekers can now access the redesigned Civilian Personnel On-Line (CPOL) Web page to locate employment opportunities.

The new Army CPOL Portal is a "one stop shop" site that provides informa-

tion on employment with the Department of Army. Simply log on to <http://acpol.army.mil> and click on 'Employment.'

This is the gateway to information on employment opportunities (including Non-appropriated Fund jobs), building a resume, as

well as viewing the status of employment applications.

To facilitate a seamless transition to the new CPOL Portal, the current Web site will remain accessible to customers through Jan. 31. *(Editor's note: See related article on page 13.)*

Officer Candidate School Board announced

RDECOM G1 Office

The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, will convene a board for Soldiers applying for attendance at the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Feb. 24 and 25.

Along with the U.S. Military Academy and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Officer Candidate School remains an important source of commissioned officers for the Army.

The Army has increased the number of Soldiers who may attend OCS. Candidates apply through local boards - Fort Meade for APG Soldiers - and those selected begin a rigorous, 14-week course of instruction at Fort Benning, Ga.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldiers who wish to become commissioned officers should prepare their applications

early. The key prerequisites for eligibility are:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Have a GT score of 110 or higher.
- Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, minimum score of 180.
- Meet the height and weight standards of AR 600-9.
- Pass the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), minimum of 850 or American College Test (ACT), minimum 19.
- Have at least 90 semester hours of college study.
- Achieve a score of 80 or higher on the English Comprehension Level Test (ECLT); if primary language is not English.
- Be at least 18 years old and less than 30 (can waiver age up to 35). Have a com-

plete physical examination six months prior to date of application.

Completed packets must be submitted to the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command Military Personnel Office not later than Jan. 17. Each application consists of one packet containing all original documents, and three photocopies of the original packet. Additional information may be found in Army Regulation 350-51 (Officer Candidate School) and on OCS Web pages, <http://www.infantry.army.mil/ocs/index.htm> and <http://www.armyocs.com/home>.

For OCS application information, call the RDECOM Adjutant's Office, 410-436-2130/3239 or e-mail vanessa.cefaloni@apega.army.mil.

Expanding distribution of flu vaccine

KUSAHC

The flu vaccine priority groups are now expanded to include adults ages 50 to 64 and close contacts of persons in high-risk groups for serious complications from the flu.

Those at high risk for complications include:

- persons over age 65
- children less than 2 years old
- pregnant women
- people of any age who have certain underlying health conditions such as heart or lung disease, transplant recipients, diabetes, kidney disease, blood disorder or a weakened immune system.

Only those persons that are DoD DEERS eli-

gible can receive the flu shot at Army health clinics.

Immunization clinic hours at Aberdeen Kirk Army Health Clinic are:

7:30 a.m. to noon, Monday thru Friday
Closed for lunch
1 to 4 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
2 to 4 p.m., Thursday

The Flu Vaccine Hotline is 410-306-FLUV (3588) is updated as information changes.

For more helpful information on staying healthy during the flu season, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

Youths receive Presidential Active Lifestyle Award

Edgewood Area Youth Center

Youths ages 7 through 16 from the Edgewood Area Youth Center completed the requirements for the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Oct. 11 through Nov. 19.

The program required youths to monitor their physical activity for six weeks and record them weekly into a log.

The activities had to be for one hour, five times a week. Activities ranged from basketball to ballet to Kung Fu.

The award was created as a way to motivate and reward youths for being physically active on a regular basis.

The purpose of the award is to establish and maintain a physically active lifestyle,

whether it is in physical education class, on a sports team, or being active with family and friends.

There are many benefits to having an active lifestyle such as, longer life, lower risk of obesity, more enjoyment in life, better social skills, etc.

The 10 youths who completed the entire six weeks received the award including Anthony Collins, Sean Doran, Faith Edmondson, Alex Kling, Jake Kluchinsky, Shawn Kluchinsky, Greg Lavette, Catelynn Murphy, Jamahl Ralls and Keith Ringgold.

"These kids did an exceptional job in meeting the challenge of having an active lifestyle," said Chris Fielder,

EA sports associate. "I am excited to see them complete the challenge with ease."

Youths enjoyed the regularity of their activities.

"I had a lot of fun doing my ballet and jump rope," said Catelynn Murphy.

"I enjoyed completing [requirements for] the award," said Keith Ringgold.

"Most of these kids didn't even have to add more activities to their daily routine, but were already involved in basketball or football, [and more] which keeps them active all the time. These 10 children can serve as an example to all kids--that it is not hard to maintain an active lifestyle," Fielder said.

NSPS

From front page

employees will convert to NSPS at each of the following locations:

Huntsville, Ala.
Rock Island, Ill.
Warren, Mich.
Fort Monmouth, N.J.
Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.
Tacoma, Wash.
Locations in the first phase with more than 500 Army employees converting to NSPS include:
Anniston Army Depot, Ala.
Sacramento, Calif.
New Orleans, La.
Vicksburg, Miss.
Red River Army Depot, Texas

Other locations in the first phase with at least 100 employees converting include:
Fort Huachuca, Ariz.
Herlong Sierra Ordnance Depot, Calif.
Los Angeles, Calif.
Colorado Springs, Colo.
San Francisco, Calif.
Fort Riley, Kan.
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Natick, Mass.
St. Paul, Minn.
St. Louis, Mo.
Watervliet, N.Y.
Tulsa, Okla.
Memphis, Tenn.
Galveston, Texas
Fort Worth, Texas
Hundreds of other locations will include just a handful of employees converting to NSPS in Spiral 1.1, according to a DoD data base.

For instance, 73 employees will convert at Fort Richardson, Alaska; An estimated 19 will convert at Fort Benning, Ga.; eleven at Fort Gordon, Ga.; 20 at Fort Stewart, Ga.; 16 at Fort Detrick, Md.; 8 at Fort Campbell, Ky.; 35 at Fort Bliss, Texas; 90 at Fort Hood

Texas; 27 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; 29 at Fort Belvoir, Va.; 31 at Fort Eustis, Va.; 12 at Fort Lee, Va.; 10 at Fort Monroe, Va.; and 8 at Fort Myer, Va.

The group of employees converting in Spiral 1.1 from all services will number about 60,000, England said.

In addition, he announced the NSPS Labor Relations system is scheduled to be implemented across the Department of Defense by summer 2005.

The second phase of implementation, Spiral 1.2, will include many other Army depot employees and a number of districts in the Corps of Engineers.

It will include 684 Army employees in Jacksonville, Fla.; more than 1,000 at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa.; almost 1,700 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; more than 1,200 at Fort Monmouth; about 3,800 in Huntsville; more than 1,000 in Warren, Mich.; 603 in Natick; 486 in Kansas City, Mo.; 786 in Omaha, Neb.; 95 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; 142 at Fort Bragg, N.C.; 832 in Corpus Christi, Texas; 576 at Toele Army Depot, Utah; 885 at Fort Belvoir; 144 at Fort Lee; 482 in Seattle, Wash.; and 281 in Walla Wall, Wash.

The third phase, Spiral 1.3, will include 2,824 employees converting to NSPS in Washington, D.C. Commands with more than 500 converting under this phase include:

Fort Benning
Fort Gordon
Fort Stewart
Fort Riley
Fort Campbell
Fort Knox, Ky.
Louisville, Ky.
Fort Polk, La.
Aberdeen Proving Ground
Baltimore, Md.

Detroit, Mich.
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
New York City
Fort Bragg
Fort Bliss
Fort Hood
Fort Sam Houston
Fort Belvoir
Fort Sill, Okla., will have 481 employees convert under Spiral 1.3, according to the DoD schedule.

The announcement of the first phase of Spiral One participants at this time allows the leadership of those affected organizations to position themselves and look ahead to help prepare employees for the conversion, according to the DoD announcement.

This will include training in what are called "soft skills," such as interpersonal communication, team building, and conflict management, to help people adjust to the change.

Spiral Two will comprise the remainder of the eligible workforce and will be initiated following an assessment of Spiral One and after the secretary of defense certifies the department's performance management system, officials said.

The law provides that the NSPS human resources system may not apply to organizations with more than 300,000 employees until the secretary of Defense determines and certifies that the department has a performance management system in place that meets the statutory criteria established for the NSPS performance management system.

Spiral One will provide the basis for this certification prior to the deployment of Spiral Two, officials said.

They said Spiral Three will comprise the DoD labs should *See NSPS, page 13*

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

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2004 IN A FLASH

Change of Commands



Photos by RALPH BROTH / Illustration by BLAKE VOSHELL
Retired Gen. John G. Coburn, left, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, congratulates Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles as he passes the Regimental Colors of the Ordnance Corps to him during the change of command ceremony at Ordnance Circle in which Boles became the 33rd chief of ordnance.



Photo by RALPH BROTH
From left to right, Col. Paul D. Meredith, outgoing commander of the 61st Ordnance Brigade, Brig Gen. Mike Lenaers, chief of ordnance, and Col. Francis R. Merritt, incoming commander, inspect the troops during the brigade change of command ceremony at Fanshaw Field July 30.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
From left, Col. John T. Wright, incoming commander, Diane M. Devens, director of the Northeast Region, Installation Management Agency, and Col. Mardi U. Mark, outgoing Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison commander, stand at attention for the playing of the Army Song during the Garrison Change of Command Ceremony at Fanshaw Field July 15.



Photo by RALPH BROTH
Brig. Gen. Michael Combest, right, returns the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Robinson after accepting command of DTC during the change of command ceremony Oct. 27. Looking on is outgoing DTC Commander Brig. Gen. Keith McNamara.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Lt. Col. Fritz W. Kirklighter, left, accepts the unit guidon from Col. Edward A. Leacock, right, commander of the Maryland Army National Guard as Aviation Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas E. Hutchins, center, looks on during the change of command ceremony in the Edgewood Area May 2.

Visit

APG News

online at

www.apgnews.apg.army.mil

2004 IN A FLASH

Change of Commands

From page 3



Photo by BEN BUNGER III
Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, acting commander, U.S. Army Medical Command, right, passes the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine guidon to incoming CHPPM Commander Col. Michael B. Cates, left, during the change of command ceremony at McBride Parade Field Sept. 23.



The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Salute Battery fires a volley during the July 29 U.S. Army Environmental Center change of command ceremony as Col. Tony R. Francis, left, receives the U.S. Army Field Flag from Maj. Gen. Larry J. Lust, right, Army assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, and Col. James M. De Paz, center, outgoing commander, looks on.



Photo by RALPH BROTH
From left, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, outgoing commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command; Gen. Paul J. Kern, commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command; and Brig. Gen. Roger A. Nadeau, incoming RDECOM commander, salute the colors during the change of command ceremony at Fanshaw Field Oct. 28.

2004 IN A FLASH

Military



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
During an Oct. 6 visit to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston discusses the Army Transformation during a roundtable discussion with Staff Sgt. William Davidson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 16th Ordnance Battalion, right, and 10 other noncommissioned officers from the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools in the dining facility in building 4503.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Above, Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion Soldiers celebrate their first place win in the Warrior Challenge competition during an award ceremony led by Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Richard B. Parker Sept. 20.

Photo courtesy of MASTER SGT. DARRICK PRESTON
Left, Master Sgt. Darrick Preston uses a welding torch while working in the Jesse James Monster Garage for the Army Monster Garage Team tractor pull project that aired on the Discovery Channel Oct. 18. Preston is the first sergeant of Company G, 16th Ordnance Battalion.

Community Notes

THURSDAY

**JANUARY 13
MEETING OF CHESA-
PEAKE BEACON,**

**WACVA CHAPTER
114**

Women's Army Corps
Veteran's Association,

LEAVE DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Employees leaving the program should call Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, or e-mail rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia)	(parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condition)
Sarah Blevins	Richard Hoffman
Jeanie Bowman	Janice Johnson (diabetic neuropathy)
Michael Cain	Lydia Langley
Iris Campbell (chemotherapy)	Anita Koller
Holly Charsha	Beverly King (caring for husband)
Barbara Crossley	Danny Kopp (lung-cancer)
Cathryn Cruz (cancer)	Ruth Cunningham
Victoria Cwiertnie (lyme disease)	Jin Kwon
Jessica Dang	William B. McLean (kidney failure)
Carl Davis	Edward Myers
Shelia Davison (benign paroxysmal positional vertigo)	Tess Ramos (total hip replacement)
Geraldine Eaton	Cheryl L. Roark
David Fletcher	Matthew Ryan
Renee Gaffney	Leigh Sanders
Charles Gambrell	Barbara Seker
Cynthia Hairston (Surgery)	Sheilah Simberg
Beatrice Heilpern	Marguerite Soper
Cynthia Henry (bronchitis with complications)	Alison Tichenor
Melanie A. Hoffman	Linda Tignor
	Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)

Chesapeake Beacon Chapter 114 will meet at 6 to 8 p.m. at Perry Point VA Hospital, Outpatient Clinic, Perry Point.

For more information, call Wanda Story at 410-272-5040.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15 BASKET BINGO

Basket Bingo to benefit Krafty Survivors Relay for Life will be held at VFW Post 8185, Route 222, Port Deposit. Doors open at 6 p.m., Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for all paper cards, extra packs cost \$5 each. To purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson, 410-378-3338 or Pat Job, 410-658-5628.

TUESDAY JANUARY 18 ITALIAN SPECIALTY MEAL

The Italian Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m. During this event military personnel, family members, department of defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.50 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, Department of Defense civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Italian Specialty Meal menu includes Italian wedding soup, spaghetti with

choice of meatballs or Italian sausage, baked meat lasagna, baked chicken pesto, veal parmesan, marinara sauce/pesto sauce, assorted pizza and calzone, garlic roasted potato wedges, roasted Italian vegetables, deep fried eggplant, Italian style green beans, toasted garlic bread, pasta salads, mixed olives and pepperoncini peppers, assorted salad bar, assorted desserts, assorted breads, soft serve yogurt with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green at 410-306-1393/1398.

SUNDAY JANUARY 23 BASKET BINGO

American Legion Post 194, 336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, is sponsoring a basket bingo. Games start at 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 for 20 games. For more information, call 410-658-3915, or e-mail basketbingo@zoominternet.net.

Proceeds benefit Boy Scout Troop 28.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15 BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIALTY MEAL

The Black History Month Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5:30 to 7 p.m. During this event all military personnel, family members,

Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.50 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and family member of sergeant or above, Department of Defense civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3 applies to spouses and other family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Black History Month Specialty Meal menu includes okra and shrimp gumbo, barbecued spare-ribs, fried chicken, southern fried catfish, curried chicken, meatloaf, ham hocks/barbecued pigs feet and more.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green at 410-306-1393/1398.

MOVIES

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3.50, CHILDREN \$1.75
Building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard
To verify listing, call 410-272-7520.**

WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED

Friday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.,
Saturday, Jan. 8, 9 p.m.

Starring: Kimberly Elise,
Loretta Devine

An adaptation of Bishop T.D. Jakes' self-help novel, chronicling a woman's struggle to come to terms with her legacy of abuse, addiction and poverty. Michelle Jordan (Elise) grows up in an environment of abuse and molestation by the hands of her mother's boyfriend Reggie (Clifton Powell), while her mother looks the other way. These circumstances lead Michelle into an abyss of drugs, prostitution and prison. While incarcerated, she sends Bishop Jakes a letter seeking a visit. With the prodding of her mother, Jakes visits Michelle and through a series of flashbacks, he uncovers the dark past that has led to Michelle's drug abuse, association with abusive men and finally murder. Jakes gets Michelle an early furlough with one stipulation: that she attend his upcoming three-day

revival. Still bitter and distrusting of the church community, her mother in particular, Michele is forced to do some soul-searching that takes her on a journey to recovery and resolve. (Rated R)

THE INCREDIBLES (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

Animated

A dysfunctional family of famous superheroes, led by the retired and overweight Mr. Incredible, is placed in a quiet suburb by the Witness Protection Program in order to protect them from their arch-enemy. But their peaceful existence is hardly that, with family disagreements sprouting up even during fights with the bad guys. When Mr. Incredible is offered the chance to play the role of hero again by a mysterious informant, he jumps at the opportunity, but when it turns out to be a trap set by an old nemesis he had a hand in corrupting, the whole family must reveal themselves to save Mr. Incredible and countless innocents. (Rated PG)

Post Shorts

Chapel, Jan. 9, or at the Protestant worship 9:15 in the EA Chapel and 10:15 a.m. at the AA Chapel, Jan. 16.

The Gospel service meets at 12:30 p.m. in the AA Chapel.

For more information, call the chapel at 410-278-4333. See article on page 13.

KWVA membership criteria

The following is in addition to the information on the Maryland Chapter, Korean War Veterans Association that appeared in the Dec. 2, 2004, issue of the *APG News*.

Robert Banker submitted this information.

The criteria for the qualifying period for membership in the KWVA is as follows:

Membership is open to any person who has seen honorable service in any of the armed forces of the United States, said service being within Korea Sept. 3, 1945 to June 25, 1950, within and without Korea, June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955, or to any member of the armed forces who served honorable in Korea from Feb. 1, 1955.

The Maryland Chapter meets at 7 p.m. at 2601 Beckley Street, Fort Holabird, Md., on the third Wednesday of each month.

For more information, call Earl House, 410-665-9959.

Special compensation to Purple Heart recipients

The Combat Military Medically Retired Veteran's Fairness Act of 2004 (HR 4637) authorizes the payment of special compensation to members of the Armed Forces retired due to disability with less than 20 years of active service who were awarded the Purple Heart.

The act states that such payments shall be made without regard to special rules applicable to other disability retirees, which require offsetting reductions.

To learn more about HR 4637, visit <http://vote.military.com/military/issues/bills/?bill=6>

778421.

OC&S holding MLK essay, display contest

All military, civilians and family members within the Aberdeen and Edgewood Area communities are invited to participate in the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' Martin Luther King Essay and Display contest.

The theme is "Remember,

Celebrate, Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off." Displays may include models, posters and/or collages. Essays must be double-spaced, using 12-point font and two to four pages in length.

The entry deadline is Jan 12. Plaques will be awarded to the top two entries in each category at 2 p.m., Jan. 20, on the second floor of building 3071.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Arbel Connor, 410-278-2529, Sgt. 1st Class

Peggy McCormick, 410-278-5598, or Sgt. 1st Class Tasha Ahmed, 410-436-1076. Essays can be faxed to 410-278-2736.

2004 IN A FLASH

Military

From page 4



Photo by BLAKE VOSHELL
Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion Drill Sergeant Leon Harrison checks the last group of ordnance Soldiers to arrive at BWI airport for Exodus Leave about 5:30 a.m. Dec. 17.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Olson, right, receives the Army Commendation Medal from Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Williams, 16th Ordnance Battalion, left, after being named the 2004 Drill Sergeant of the Year at Top of the Bay Jan. 23.



Photo by RAPLH BROTH
Members of the color guard from Detachment 1, 361st TRS U.S. Air Force Detachment, of the U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School fold the American flag in front of building 3071 after the retreat ceremony to celebrate the 57th birthday of the U.S. Air Force Sept. 17. The ceremony's observers included Col. Francis R. Merritt, OMMS commander, Maj. Steven Pratt, USAF detachment commander and the entire detachment of instructors and students.

2004 IN A FLASH

Achievements



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
From left, Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Potter, his wife Gabrielle, and six of their nine children watch as from right, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison Commander Col. Mardi U. Mark and Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby, and Pat Hector, Housing Division, help cut the ribbon to the new five-bedroom prototype quarters in Bayside Village. The Directorate of Installation Operation's Buzz Soltis looks on from rear.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
From left, Maj. Steve Pratt, commander of Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron, a part of Aberdeen Proving Ground's U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, and Col. Francis R. Merritt, OMMS commander, watch the viewing screens on one of two state-of-the-art Welding Demonstration Booths constructed by detachment instructors for use in its Aircraft Metals Technology training course.

CMA

From front page

destroyed."

CMA protects and safely stores the United States' aging chemical weapons, while employing technologies to safely and effectively destroy the nation's chemical stockpile as well as recover, treat and ultimately eliminate other chemical warfare materiel.

Thus far, the Army has destroyed more than 42 percent of the nation's chemical weapons munitions, and 10,503 tons of chemical agent, representing one third of the total stockpile.

All of the chemical weapons on Johnston Island in the Pacific were the first to be eliminated by the Army. Along with Aberdeen, chemical weapons are currently being destroyed in Tooele, Utah;

Anniston, Ala.; Umatilla, Ore.

Operations to destroy chemical weapons are anticipated to begin within the next year in Pine Bluff, Ark., and Newport, Ind.

The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program, another arm of CMA, has also made substantial progress in destroying chemical materiel considered separate from the chemical stockpile.

This materiel includes former production facilities and recovered chemical warfare materiel.

NSCMP reached a key milestone in 2003 by destroying more than 80 percent of the nation's original chemical weapons production capabilities 16-months ahead of schedule.

In November of this year, NSCMP completed a major phase in its ongoing demolition of a former production facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal, White Hall, Ark., one of the two still remaining (the other is at Newport Chemical Depot, in Vermillion, Ind.). Both will be demolished by the April 2007 deadline established under the CWC.

To learn more about the CMA's programs and activities, visit Web site, <http://www.cma.army.mil>.

2004 IN A FLASH
Achievements
From page 6



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Former Edgewood Area battalion fire chief Charles B. Cox, left, enjoys a laugh over a gift from Aberdeen Proving Ground firefighter George W. Dorbert during the retirement celebration in Cox's honor held Sept. 2 at Top of the Bay.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
The Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security names officer Raymond "Jay" Kinlein, the assistant accreditation manager and operation officer for the APG Police Academy, the 2004 Police Officer of the Year.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Conant, left, commander, U.S. Marine Corps Training Command at Quantico, Va., pins the Bronze Star Medal on 1st Sgt. James M. Thompson Jr., U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, during a ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground Aug. 31. Thompson earned the award while serving with the 2nd Marine Task Force Charlie in Iraq, January to July 2003.

2004 IN A FLASH
Significant Activities



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Lt. Col. Richard B. Parker, commander, 16th Ordnance Battalion, center, passes the Company G guidon to Capt. Song V. Huynh, company commander, during the unit activation ceremony at building 4218 Aug. 17. Looking on is 16th Ordnance Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Hart, left, and Company G 1st Sgt. Darrick Preston, right.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Ron Warren, an award-winning Native American composer and flutist, performs his "Eagle Song" during the 10th Annual Native American Heritage Month Honoring Celebration at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Nov. 9.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
From left, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Carol Van Schenkhof, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Maj. Joseph Di Gregorio, Catholic priest; and Col. Dave Willet, APG Garrison and installation chaplain, lead the congregation in song during the rededication of the newly renovated Edgewood Area Chapel May 23.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
A bugler blows "Taps" to conclude the D-Day ceremony marking the 60th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. Sponsored by the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity and held at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum June 4, the ceremony included a tree planting and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Canteens and canteen covers are some of the hundreds of line items on hand in Aberdeen Proving Ground's new Central Issue Facility in building 5035 which officially opened for business March 12.



Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Activities

Operating hours

The MWR Registration, Tickets and Leisure Travel Center's operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the first and third Friday of every month.

If this happens to fall on a training holiday, then, on the Thursday prior, the office will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907 or e-mail mwr_registration@usag.apg.army.mil.

New engraver at APG Arts and Craft

A new engraving machine at the Arts and Crafts facility has arrived just in time to create that special holiday gift for family and friends.

The New Hermes Gravograph, with its state-of-the-art font and ornamental capabilities gives customers a

wider selection of graphics to choose from when selecting special occasion plaques.

Used mainly for plaques and trophies, one new capability includes the option to space letters randomly instead of always using straight lines.

A large plaque selection available on site includes a selection of accessories and eight to 10 different metal colors to choose from.

The standard fees for engraving include 10 cents per letter and 15-cents per square inch of metal. Plaques range from \$4 to \$40 and accessories, such as organizational crests, are additional.

The Frame Shop staff uses the computerized "Eclipse" mat cutter, which offers hundreds of options in corner selections, to design the matting for the wide selection of frames available in the shop. There also is a self-help area for those who wish to do it all

themselves.

Anyone who has taken the Framing Class can use the area for \$5 a day.

For more information, call 410-278-4207.

New fitness class begins

A new fitness class will start this month, just in time to get in shape after the holidays.

For just \$48, take unlimited classes January thru March. Classes will vary between the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas. Schedules will be posted in each facility and the Athletic centers.

For more information, call the APG Fitness Center, 410-278-9725, Hoyle Gym and Fitness Center, 410-436-7134, or MWR Registration, 410-278-4907.

Sports Injury Prevention

This class is designed to help individuals and teams care for and prevent sports injuries. How to treat fractures, wounds, and soft tissue damage will be covered. Short and long term therapy for minor and major injuries and what to expect during the recovery period will also be addressed.

Classes will be held 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 11 to 25, at the AA Recreation Center.

Cost is \$25. Register by Jan. 6.

Introduction to Boxing

This MWR Boxing Symposium will introduce the participant to the sport of Olympic Boxing 1 to 5 p.m., Jan. 8, at Russell Gym.

All the necessary steps and procedures to reach the highest echelons of the sport will be

covered.

This in-depth clinic will be instructed by experienced boxing officials and coaches who are certified and qualified to prepare each individual fighter to be the best he or she can be.

Cost is \$5 per person. Register by Jan.6.

NFL Pro Bowl Weekend

MWR is hosting a trip to view the NFL Pro Bowl Game Feb. 10 to 14, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Cost is \$1,099 per person for double occupancy and \$1,399 per person for single occupancy.

The package includes roundtrip airfare through Los Angeles to Honolulu, airport transfers in Honolulu, four-night Waikiki Hotel accommodations, Pearl Harbor and Honolulu City tour, tailgate party on the shores of Pearl

Harbor and NFL Pro Bowl Game tickets.

Reservations are limited and full payment is expected at time of reservation.

Paint your own

Edgewood Area Arts and Crafts now has a "Paint Your Own Ceramic Studio."

The ceramic studio is open to all APG civilians, active duty military, contractors and reservists and their dependents. No previous artist skills are required.

There is a wide assortment of gift items to choose from.

Hours of operation are 1 to 9 p.m., Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

Arts and Crafts is located in building E-4440, next to the Military Police Station.

For more information, call 410-436-2153.

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

Parent nights at local schools

Harford County Public Schools Parent Information Nights are being held as follows. For starting times, call a number listed below.

Aberdeen Middle School

Cafeteria
Jan. 25
Brice Irwin, 410-273-5510

Bel Air Middle School

Media Center
Jan. 26
Sean Abel, 410-638-4140

Edgewood Middle School

Cafeteria
Feb. 2
Chris Anderson, 410-612-1518

Fallston Middle School

Media Center
Feb. 3
Ron Wingate, 410-638-4129

Havre de Grace Middle School

Media Center
Feb. 9
Natalie Holloway, 410-939-6608

Magnolia Middle School

Multi-purpose Room
Feb. 22
Betty Mull, 410-638-3658

Southampton Middle School

Cafeteria
March 2
Barbara Sauer, 410-638-4150

Winter, spring Driver Education Classes scheduled

Youth Services will present State certified Driver's Education classes at Child and Youth Services, building 2752, room 210. Nine classes, 30 hours of instruction each will begin on a Wednesday and end on Tuesday of the second week. There will be no classes on holidays. Parents and students must attend the first hour of class together (Jan. 19, Feb. 2, Feb. 16, etc.) to review rules and procedures.

The following classes are scheduled:
Jan. 19 through Feb. 1, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Feb. 2 through Feb. 15, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Feb. 16 through March 1, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

March 2 through March 15, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

March 16 through March 29, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

March 30 through April 12, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

April 13 through April 26, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

April 27 through May 10, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

May 11 through May 24, 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

The cost is \$295 plus \$18 registration/membership fee for teens or family members 15 years of age or older, of military, retired, DoD (and DA) personnel and contractors who work at APG per student. Adults may also register on a case-by-case basis.

Registration will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Outreach Services-Central Registration Office, room 110, building 2752. A minimum class size of three students is required, 21 students maximum.

To make an appointment to register and pay the fee, call Christina Keithley at 410-278-7571 or Pat Palazzi at 410-278-7479.

For more information about the Teen Driver Education program, call Greg Williams, Rules Driving School, Inc., at 410-939-7008 or 937-2184, or Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

EA fitness classes

Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210

Power Step: 11:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday

This class uses "the step" for 60 minutes of intense cardio workout. Abdominal strengthening exercises and a relaxing cool down are also included.

Power Bar: 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Thursday

A total body strengthening class that uses the power bar (a weighted bar), the step, hand weights and tubing for resistance.

Abs Blaster, Mat Pilates and Hatha Yoga classes are cancelled.

AA fitness classes

AA Fitness Center, building 320

Step & Sculpt: 11:30 a.m., Monday

Class consists of cardiovascular conditioning using "the step." Hand weights are also used to sculpt. The class ends with abdominal and flexibility exercises.

Power Cut: 4:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; 11:30 a.m., Thursdays

A 60-minute class that uses barbells or dumbbells for conditioning and strengthening, the class uses high repetitions to exhaust the muscle groups.

Step/Conditioning: 5 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday

This class uses "the step" in combinations with various sports conditioning moves to provide cardiovascular improvement as well as muscle conditioning.

Mat Pilates: 6 p.m., Wednesday

Gut Cut: 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays

This is a 30-minute workout designed to sculpt and strengthen the abdominal and lower back muscles.

Aerobic Kickboxing: 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays

The class consists of a cardio workout that combines traditional high/low aerobics with punches and kicks.

APG Athletic Center, building 3300

Yoga Fit: 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday

Class is based on aerobic format, warm-up, workout phase and cool down.

2004 IN A FLASH

MWR Events

See MWR Events, page 9



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
The First Lady of Gospel, Shirley Caesar belts out one of her trademark spirituals during the Evening of Worship concert at the APG Post Theater Nov. 5. Caesar's guest was Pamela Rankins.



Photo courtesy of MWR
Shelly Sanders, a captain with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, puts toward an overall second place finish in the Armed Forces Golf championships at Fort Carson, Colo., in the fall.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Mercedes Ashby, Morale, Welfare and Recreation aerobic instructor and personal trainer, leads participants in stretching exercises before the 2 to 3-kilometer Fun Run/Walk during the National Health and Fitness Day activities at the Aberdeen Area Fitness Center May 19.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Ashley Taylor, 15, enjoys a game of cosmic bowling with teammates in the APG Bowling Center after the youth bowling league award ceremony and banquet June 5.



Photo by ANDRE FOURNIER
Illustration by BLAKE VOSHELL
A fire engine from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire Department is one of several firefighting vehicles on display at the first annual Fire Station Open House at building 2200 Oct. 9.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Choir director Regina Mack, left, leads the APG Gospel Service Choir in the song, "It's Marvelous," during the Wilbert Davis Gospel Night celebration at the Post Theater Feb. 22.



Photo by MEGHAN BOWEN
The cast of the 2004 Soldier Show ends the performance with a rendition of The Army Song at the Post Theater in November.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Nashville recording artist Eddie Montgomery, left, waves a POW/MIA flag as he and partner Troy Gentry belt out a patriotic song during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation concert featuring Blue County and Baltimore's Dean Crawford and the Dunn's River Band on Shine Sports Field July 17.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Soldiers, Airmen and Marines from the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools support flags and banners in the gusty wind during the Maryland Purple Heart Monument unveiling ceremony, hosted by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Maryland Military Order of the Purple Heart at the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum Aug. 7.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Above, Lady wrestler Special "K," left, has her opponent Persephone on the ropes during the ICW Superstars of Wrestling show at the APG Athletic Center March 20.

Photo by MEGHAN BOWEN
Left, Sgt. Abimeal Leon, back left, of Killeen Armory, Fort Hood, Texas, sings a Latin number while cast members dance to the music.

2004 IN A FLASH

Equipment / Training



Photo by RON CARTY
A Soldier from the 1/17th Infantry Battalion, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, fires an M-4 machine gun with cross contact optic site attachment at pop-up-targets on the M-Range on the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center during the encapsulation study conducted by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory Feb. 26.



Photo by LA'MONT HARBISON
Right, two advanced Non-commissioned Officer Course students take cover behind their vehicle following an attack during convoy operations training at the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School Noncommissioned Officer Academy.



Photo courtesy of ATC
A Ukrainian T-80UD Main Battle Tank prepares to give a demonstration of its capabilities as part of the Roll Out ceremony held at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center Feb. 18.



Photo by MIKE CAST
Gary Deal of Aberdeen Test Support Services climbs out of the fire-support configuration of the Army's new Stryker medium-armored combat vehicle after delivering it to the Ordnance Museum April 20. The Stryker, which is playing a key role in the war efforts in Iraq, joins the ranks of military vehicles at the museum that have played a prominent role in military history.

2004 IN A FLASH

Deployment News



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
1st Lt. Hanna Maxcy, detachment commander of 28 members of the Army Reserve 369th Engineer Detachment (Firefighters) from Pennsylvania, reunites with his wife Nicole at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center after a one-year deployment to Iraq April 28.



Photo Courtesy of 1st LT DENISE LITTLE
1st Lt. Denise Little smiles down at her comrades from inside a Fox reconnaissance vehicle fitted with a machine gun mount and added turrets for extra protection from Improvised Exploding Devices near Baghdad, Iraq. Little is the daughter of Col. James Little, Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and Sheila Little, TRI-S contractor with the U.S. Army Environmental Center.



Photo courtesy of SMPT
In an improvised classroom set up in a gym locker room, Soldiers stationed in Iraq study Department of the Army regulations governing the shipment of hazardous materials during training conducted by instructors from the U.S. Army School of Military Packaging Technology.



Photo by MAJ CHARLES KOHLER
Sgt. Robert McColligan Jr., a member of Detachment 1, 1159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), Maryland Army National Guard, spends time with his son, Hunter, Dec. 8 prior to departing for Iraq.

Commentary



Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffrey D. Watters
USAGAPG

The new year arrived on a somber note with reports of the worst natural disaster in centuries, so tragic and horri-

Commentary-Freedom to make a choice

ic that the entire world has been affected.

Our hearts go out to the loved ones who are grieving for those washed away in the tsunami.

Perhaps you have seen news accounts or watched some of the videos as wave after wave came in and unleashed its fury.

With disaster relief pouring in from around the world, lingering questions remain. One Indian woman was quoted as asking something we have all asked, "Why did you do this to us, God? What did we do to upset you?"

Dr. Edward Spence, a philosopher at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, Charles Sturt

University, addressed the problem in the following way:

"Traditionally, the Judeo-Christian God, considered the most supreme and perfect being in the universe, has been ascribed the following necessary attributes: omniscience (all-knowing), omnipresence (present everywhere at all times and at once), omnipotence (almighty and powerful) and benevolence (all good and caring). How, then, did a God as powerful and benevolent as this allow such a thing to happen? If he is benevolent, then he cannot also be omnipotent, for a God who has both these attributes would have wanted to, cared to, and been able to prevent such a catastrophe," Spence said.

For those of us who are asking the same or similar questions, here are a few points to ponder.

God is all powerful, but there are some things God will not do. He cannot lie, neither can he be tempted to sin. He cannot tempt others to sin. In other words, he cannot do anything that is out of character for a righteous God. He cannot do what is irrational or absurd.

As such, he cannot "undo the past," make a square a triangle, or make a rock so big he cannot push it. If so then he would be a slave to his own omnipotence.

Self-restraint or self-limited power is a mark of true power.

God created us in his own image and wants us to have a

relationship with him.

He wants us to freely love him. Love and obedience on any other basis would not be love or obedience, but mere compliance.

Faced with either obeying God or coping with the consequences of natural disasters, there really is no "choice."

Tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes or a calm well-ordered existence--it's a no-brainer, but would people obey God because they love God? No, they would do so because they have a natural fear of pain and death, thereby negating the "choice" factor.

We live in a fallen world, and as such, we are subject to natural disasters.

We could not function as

free creatures in a world in which our every choice and action had a predictable certain outcome. We would become mere robots, in a controlled environment of stimulus and response.

God is capable of destroying evil - but he would have to destroy human freedom at the same time.

The bottom line is that God wants us to love him because we want to, not because we are afraid not to.

(Editor's note: Watters is the senior pastor at APG Main Post Chapel, and can be contacted at jeffrey.dean.watters@apg.army.mil, or 410-278-4333.

APG chapel collects aid for tsunami victims

Meghan Bowen
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground community will be able to help victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami disaster by contributing a monetary donation to a designated offering for relief aid organized by Aberdeen Area chaplains.

"It's absolutely devastating," said Chap. (Maj.) Jeffrey D. Watters. "Even though it's so far away, it still hits home."

In response to seeing reports about the devastation, Watters got together with fellow Protestant Chap. (Capt.) Michael Curtis on Jan. 3 and "brainstormed about what we could do; how could we help these folks?"

At the weekly Pastor's meeting Jan. 4, Watters and Curtis organized a designated

offering, or collection of money for one cause, to be held Jan. 9 during the Catholic services and Jan. 16 during the Protestant services at both the Aberdeen and Edgewood area chapels.

"Anyone can make a donation towards the victims fund," said Curtis, but he emphasized donations should be made during the designated services.

Food and clothing donations are not being accepted in lieu of monetary donations.

"Monetary donations are an faster way of getting aid to the victims than shipping goods," Watters said.

Watters and Curtis talked about how the news of the growing number of victims, nearing 150,000 killed, and those survivors who have lost their families and homes, affected them personally.

"You can't fathom the devastation," Watters said. "It's unbelievable."

"There's just a need in the community to reach out," Curtis said. "We have an ability [at APG] to help people and we have people who have a desire to help."

"There are many generous people in the congregation," Watters said of the 650 Protestant and Catholic parish-

ioners who make weekly offerings.

Watters commented on the recent \$5,000 donation collected by the chapels for Army Community Service and his hope for the disaster victim offering.

"Together we're hoping to match that, and if not, give more than five thousand," Watters said. "That's sort of our small way of helping peo-



<http://www.shoa.cl/servicios/tsunami/imagen/gigante.jpg>
Not an actual photo of Dec. 26 tsunami.

Selecting good passwords

DOIM

Although computer users cannot make computers completely immune to attacks, there are ways to improve the security of the system to make it less vulnerable.

Good security practices at the user level, such as locking the computer when away from it and not opening unknown e-mail attachments are well known precautions. However, the best defense is perhaps the least appreciated.

Selecting a good password goes a long way toward protecting the integrity of the computer and the overall integrity of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Campus Area Network.

The objective when choosing a password is to make it as difficult as possible for a cracker to make educated guesses about what was cho-

sen. This leaves him no alternative but to try every possible combination of letters, numbers and punctuation.

"A search of this sort, even conducted on a machine that could try one million passwords per second (most machines can try less than on hundred per second), would require, on the average, [more than] 100 years to complete," according to Advanced Laboratory Workstation, developed by the Center for Information Technology.

The following are some easy to remember do's and don'ts when selecting a password:

What not to use

- Don't use a login name in any form.
- Don't use a first or last name in any form.
- Don't use a spouse or child's name.

- Don't use other information easily obtained about the user; this includes license plate numbers, telephone numbers, social security numbers, the brand of automobile, the name of the street the user lives on, etc.

- Don't use a password of all digits or all the same letters. This significantly decreases the search time for a cracker.
- Don't use a word contained in dictionaries, spelling lists or other lists of words.

What to use

- Do use a password containing 10 characters that consist of at least two each of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.
- Do use a password that is easy to remember, so user doesn't have to write it down.
- Do use a password that user can type quickly, without

having to look at the keyboard. This makes it harder for someone to steal the password by watching over user's shoulder.

There are a few good methods users can use to choose secure and easy to remember passwords. Choose a line or two from a song or poem, and use the first letter of each word substituting numbers for a couple of the corresponding words and adding a special character here and there. Another good suggestion is to choose two short words and link them together with a punctuation character [between them] and add some numbers, for example, Dog*muG?96.

But, whatever password is chosen, choose it with this in mind; someone will try to crack it.

Military Marriage Seminar provides marriage tune-up

USAGAPG

In a recent survey, 84 percent of respondents listed a happy family as the most essential thing in their lives, ranking it higher than a good income, healthy environment, or any other pressing social issue. Ironically, half of all marriages today will end in divorce.

Military Family Ministries, in partnership with FamilyLife, both ministries of Campus Crusade for Christ, is teaching practical, biblical principles for strengthening and improving marriages. The ministry presents Military Marriage Seminars at U.S. military installations here in the United States and around the world.

A Seminar will be held at the APG Post Chapel, building 2485, Jan. 28 and 29.

The Military Marriage Seminars have been adapted from the FamilyLife Marriage Seminars, which have been attended by over 1,000,000 people in 100 cities across the country. Combining years of military experience with marriage and family training, speakers present a variety of topics, including: Five Threats

to Marriage, Resolving Conflict, Husbands' and Wives' Responsibilities in Marriage, and Sexual Intimacy.

The Seminar also includes time for couples to apply what they are learning, and a romantic date-night.

The response to these seminars has flourished as couples seek to make a positive investment in their relationships.

A recent attendee stated, "The seminar has opened my eyes to see the commitment I should have in my marriage. I've learned that I need to help and support my husband and not think of him as an enemy out to get me."

And a husband commented on the seminar and his 16-year marriage, "The seminar has reaffirmed my love for my wife and the attention that she needs. A tune-up and much-needed maintenance has taken place. We both feel a need to make ourselves a priority to each other again."

The Military Marriage Seminar is adapted from the "Weekend to Remember" FamilyLife Marriage Seminar. More than one million people have attended FamilyLife

Seminars held throughout the United States, with attendance growing at a rate of over 25 percent a year.

The Military Marriage Seminar runs from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday evening, and is held all day Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Child watch-care will be provided at the

chapel.

The seminar is open to both married and engaged couples. Registration is \$30 per couple, and the registration deadline is Jan. 20.

For more information contact Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Curtis at 410-278-4333.

Army deploys new automated human resource tool

Army News Service

During the past two years, the Army Civilian Human Resources ACHR community has been working on the redesign of the Civilian Personnel On-Line Web page.

The new CPOL Portal was launched worldwide Dec. 21. The Portal is a "one stop shop" site that provides accessibility to employment opportunities and reference information.

In addition, Army civilian employees, managers, and personnelists can use their Army Knowledge On-Line login rights to enter the Employee Portal.

The Employee Portal enables access to automated HR tools and information through several "portlets." The specific information and tools available depend on the individual's security access rights.

As part of the redesign, the Army

Regional Toolset system was reconfigured so that its former menu items are accessible as applications within the Portal.

Once logged into the Employee Portal, military and civilian managers can use the Manager Tab to easily view their employees' personnel records, track their Requests for Personnel Actions, and use an In-Box Statistics tool to see exactly where, who and how much time is being dedicated to processing their actions. Managers can also view and monitor their employees' reported pay problems.

And the full complement of Army HR tools is now accessible within the Manager Tab. Within the HR Specialist Tab Army personnelists can access all the functionality of the current ART system.

Initially Army civilian employees (who are not managers or personnelists)

will only have access to automation tools, but in the future they will be able to use the Employee Data portlet to view their own personnel record.

To facilitate a seamless transition to the new CPOL Portal, the current version of ART will remain accessible to customers through Jan. 31. During this timeframe we will continue to inform customers about features of the modernized Portal and will deploy educational tools such as screen cams to assist customers in its use.

The Army CPOL Portal is available at <http://acpol.army.mil>.

All users are encouraged to log in and take a look at the tools. If users have problems logging into the Portal with their AKO user id and password, they can contact AKO at 1-877-AKO-USER for assistance.

For more information, e-mail modern.helpdesk@cpocner.apg.army.mil.

NSPS

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current legislative restrictions be eliminated.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

"NSPS provides an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the department through a simplified personnel management system that will improve the way it hires and assigns, as well as compensate and reward its employees," England said. "It will provide the depart-

ment with a modern, flexible and agile human resource system that can be more responsive to the national security environment, while preserving employee protections and benefits."

The new system will be fully implemented in the July 2007 to January 2008 timeframe, England said.

To view the entire list of NSPS Spiral One participants visit

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2004/d20041214osd.pdf>.

Exception to dual compensation prohibition approved

NAF

Current Appropriated Fund and Nonappropriated Fund civilian employees are now eligible to hold their current position while also accepting a flexible position with NAF.

Based upon a history of difficulty locating qualified applicants, the following flexible positions have been approved as exceptions to the dual compensation prohibition:

Aerobic Instructor, NF-1712-02
Bartender, NA-7405-03
Cook, NA-7404-04/05
Custodial Worker (Trainee), NA-3566-01
Custodial Worker, NA-3566-02
Custodial Worker Leader, NL-3566-02
Food Service Worker, NA-7408-01/04
Gardener, NA-5003-04
Motor Vehicle Operator,

NA-5703-07

Waiter (Trainee), NA-7420-02

Waiter, NA-7420-03
Applications and vacancy announcements may be obtained at NAF Human Resources Office or www.apg.army.mil/cpac.

Completed applications may be brought, mailed or faxed to 410-278-0684, NAF HRO, Building 305, 305 Longs Corner Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5001.

The exception to dual compensation only applies to vacancy announcements listed above.

Anyone interested in being considered for more than one position must submit a separate application for each vacancy announcement.

For more information, call 410-278-8993.

2004 IN A FLASH
Deployment News
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Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Master Sgt. Louie O. Marohombsar, left, of the Edgewood Area's Guardian Brigade, holds up his critter companion, "Freedom" for all to see before returning it to Ryan Taylor Henry, right, during the conclusion of the 6th-graders Travelmate Project at Mountain Christian School in Joppa April 26.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
From left, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Toy Young and Sgt. Young Oh, 400th Military Police Company, bow their heads in prayer, giving thanks for the unit's safe return from Operation Iraqi Freedom during a ceremony welcoming the unit home at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center Jan. 23.

2004 IN A FLASH
Community



Photo by MATT BUTTON
Saul Martinez, an Aberdeen Proving Ground civilian with the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit and host of three players from Team Mexico with the Cal Ripken World Series, wears a sombrero in support of the team during the championship game Aug. 22.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Members of the Elkton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8175 hold up the American, Maryland, and armed forces branch flags as they flap in the breeze during the Veterans Day observance at the Elkton Armory Nov. 14.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Sgts. Timothy Garner, left and Samuel Lee, right, students with the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Academy, chat with a patient they escorted to a car show at the Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center as a part of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools' community service commitment.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
The American Legion Post 128 honor guard posts the colors during the Veterans Day ceremony at Memorial Park in Aberdeen Nov. 11.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
The U.S. Air Force Detachment drill team enters Harford Mall for a drill demonstration during the Veterans Muster held by the Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs May 15.

2004 IN A FLASH

Sports



Members of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense intramural soccer team celebrate their post championship win on Shine Sports Field.



Vincent Hawthorn, 25, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 143rd Ordnance Battalion, tries to launch a pass over a Company A 143rd player during their Jan. 15 intramural basketball game at Hoyle Gym.



Matt Long, a police officer with Aberdeen Proving Ground's Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, lifts 660 pounds on his way to winning best overall lifter in Morale, Welfare and Recreation's annual Deadlift Competition held April 24. Long went on to be named the Strongest Police Officer in Maryland during a benefit competition sponsored by the Howard County Police Department Sept. 26.



Above, From left, Col John T. Wright, APG Garrison commander, presents the 2004 Commander's Cup trophy to the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment commander Maj. Dan Mielke and 1st Sgt. James Thompson as Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby, right, looks on during the awards program at the Aberdeen Athletic Center Dec. 7.

Left, Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment softball team celebrate with their trophies on Shine Sports Field after winning the intramural softball post championship Aug. 24.



Players from Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion pose with their trophies and fans after winning the 2004 intramural basketball post championship in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center March 15.



Players from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion intramural flag football team pose with their trophies after winning the post championship over Company E 16th on Shine Sports Field Nov. 15.